



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Notice of Availability of and Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Date: August 30, 2017
Case No.: 2014.1010E
Project Title: **Sixth Street Pedestrian Safety Project**
Zoning: NA
Block/Lot: NA
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
Sustainable Street Division, Livable Streets Program
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This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project as described below. The document is a preliminary negative declaration (PND), containing information about the possible environmental effects of the proposed project. The PND documents the determination of the Planning Department that the proposed project could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of a PND does not indicate a decision by the City to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

Project Description: The City's Vision Zero program sets forth the goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities in San Francisco by 2024. Program efforts identified the Sixth Street corridor as having the highest concentration of severe and fatal pedestrian injuries in the city. Between 2005 and 2009, pedestrian collision rates along the Sixth Street corridor were ranked among the highest in the city, with the Market Street/Sixth Street/Taylor Street/Golden Gate Avenue, Howard Street/Sixth Street, and Mission Street/Sixth Street intersections ranking first, second, and third, respectively, in the Civic Center and Tenderloin neighborhoods. Under the direction of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (the project sponsor), the Sixth Street Pedestrian Safety Project (proposed project) would implement multi-modal changes to Sixth Street between Market and Brannan Streets with the intent to improve safety and access for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and drivers. The primary safety goals of the proposed project are to (1) calm motor vehicle traffic and reduce speed; (2) reduce pedestrian collisions; (3) improve pedestrian crossings at all intersections; (4) improve safety and comfort for people on bicycles; and (5) create a safe and inviting public space.

The proposed project features the removal of one northbound and one southbound vehicle travel lane from Market to Bryant Streets; sidewalk expansions and associated streetscape changes between Market and Howard Streets; the removal of peak-period tow-away lane designations between Howard and Brannan Streets; streetscape changes between Howard and Brannan Streets; new roadway striping introducing right-lane-must-turn-right restricted lanes, left-turn pockets, right-turn pockets, and a center turning lane at various locations; the installation of two new traffic signals; and upgrades to the traffic signal system. The proposed project would also establish northbound and southbound Class II bicycle lanes between Market and Folsom Streets. In conjunction with changes to the traffic circulation patterns, corner bulb-outs and ADA-compliant curb ramps would be installed at all intersections between Market and Howard Streets (except on the south side of Howard Street) and at Folsom and Harrison Streets; raised crosswalks would

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be installed at the entrances to the alleys between Market and Howard Streets and at Clementina Street; new and replacement infill street trees (between Market and Howard Streets) would be planted; and other installments would include pedestrian-scale light fixtures, new trash receptacles, new bicycle racks, and landscaping in the street furniture zone and at corner bulb-outs.

The project site is within the public right-of-way and is not located on a hazardous materials site as designated pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. Construction of the proposed project would take approximately 12 months, starting in fall 2018. Construction operations would likely be focused on one block at a time (e.g., Sixth Street between Market and Mission Streets), with durations for each block varying from a high of 8 to 10 weeks per block from Market to Howard Streets (to implement the more intensive streetscape changes proposed on those blocks) to a low of 4 to 6 weeks for less-intensive sections from Howard to Brannan Streets.

The PND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://www.sf-planning.org/sfceqadocs>). Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the ground floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, contact the Planning Department staff contact listed above.

Within 30 calendar days following publication of the PND (i.e., by 5:00 p.m. on **September 29, 2017**), any person may:

- 1) Review the PND as an informational item and take no action;
- 2) Make recommendations for amending the text of the document. The text of the PND may be amended to clarify or correct statements and may be expanded to include additional relevant issues or to cover issues in greater depth. This may be done **without** the appeal described below; **OR**
- 3) Appeal the determination of no significant effect on the environment to the Planning Commission in a letter which specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$578 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.¹ An appeal requires the Planning Commission to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared based upon whether or not the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. Send the appeal letter to the Planning Department, Attention: Lisa M. Gibson, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or by e-mail to lisa.gibson@sfgov.org. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$578.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2017.** The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the PIC counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

In the absence of an appeal, the PND shall be made final, subject to necessary modifications, after 30 days from the date of publication of the PND. If the PND is appealed, the Final Negative Declaration (FND) may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The first approval action, as identified in the Initial Study, would establish the start of the 30-day appeal period for the FND pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 31.16(h).

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Commission or the Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.

¹ Upon review by the Planning Department, the appeal fee may be reimbursed for neighborhood organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months.